

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 291510  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:FZBROWN:JY  
APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE  
EA:ROAKLEY  
EA/PHL:BFLECK  
S/S:RPERITO

-----076297 071322Z /45

R 070318Z DEC 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 291510

EXDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR NEWSOM FROM HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RP, VM, US

SUBJECT: RICE FOR VIETNAM

REF: 1. 19059, 2. STATE 290268

1. DURING YOUR NEXT MEETING, PLEASE PASS TO MARCOS ON MY  
BEHALF THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON REF 1.

A. U.S. EMBARGO ON TRADE WITH VIETNAM REMAINS IN EFFECT,  
AND OF COURSE PURELY COMMERCIAL SALES, INCLUDING FOODSTUFFS,  
ARE INCLUDED.

B. WE HAVE OFFERED TO LIFT EMBARGO IMMEDIATELY AFTER U.S.  
AND SRV ESTABLISH RELATIONS, OPEN EMBASSIES AND EXCHANGE  
AMBASSADORS. WE HAVE MET TWICE (MAY AND JUNE) WITH  
VIETNAMESE IN PARIS ON NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS AND EX-  
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PECT TO MEET THIRD TIME SOON. OUR OFFER, WHICH WE CONSIDER  
FAIR TO BOTH SIDES, IS STILL ON THE TABLE.

C. STATE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS TO COMMERCE DEPARTMENT THAT  
LICENSES FOR CERTAIN COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS BE GRANTED IF  
THEY CAN BE CONSTRUED AS "HUMANITARIAN." WHILE OUR CON-  
STRUCTION IS LIBERAL, IT CERTAINLY DOES NOT EXTEND TO

LARGE SCALE COMMERCIAL SALES OF BASIC FOODS, SUCH AS RICE.

D. UNDER THE HUMANITARIAN RUBRIC, HOWEVER, WE DO ROUTINELY RECOMMEND LICENSING OF DONATIONS REPEAT DONATIONS OF A BROAD RANGE OF COMMODITIES, INCLUDING FOODSTUFFS, BY AMERICAN CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS. THE MOST RECENT EXAMPLE WAS OUR FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION ON A DONATION OF 10,000 TONS OF WHEAT (VALUE: US 1.5 MILLION DOLS) BY CHURCH WORLD SERVICE.

E. SINCE JULY 1975, THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF LICENSED EXCEPTIONS TO THE VIETNAM EMBARGO TOTALLING MORE THAN US 6.5 MILLION DOLS. THIS INCLUDES COMMERCIAL SALES AND CHARITABLE DONATIONS, ALL UNDER HUMANITARIAN JUSTIFICATION.

F. THE USG MAY NOT PAY TRANSPORTATION COSTS OF DONATED ITEMS, SINCE THIS WOULD COME UNDER HEADING OF "AID," WHICH IN VIETNAM'S CASE IS CLEARLY PROHIBITED BY LAW.

2. YOU MAY ALSO MENTION TO MARCOS THAT THE VIETNAMESE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THE U.S. OUT TO BE AN OGRE ON THE EMBARGO QUESTION (WITHHOLDING FOOD FROM STARVING CHILDREN, ETC). THE RECORD SHOWS THAT WE HAVE BEEN RATHER PERMISSIVE, INCREASINGLY SO UNDER THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IN AN ATTEMPT TO SHOW OUR GOOD WILL.  
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GETTING RID OF THE EMBARGO AT MINIMUM POLITICAL COST IS A PRIME VIETNAMESE OBJECTIVE IN OUR NORMALIZATION NEGOTIATIONS (REF 2).

3. FYI, VIETNAMESE REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF THE DECEMBER 7-11 THIRD ROUND CAME ABRUPTLY DECEMBER 2. THEY ATTEMPTED TO ASSURE US THAT THE REASONS ARE GENUINELY "TECHNICAL," NOT POLITICAL, BUT AS YET HAVE NOT PROPOSED A NEW DATE. WE BELIEVE POSTPONEMENT MAY BE RELATED TO VIETNAMESE CONFLICT WITH CAMBODIA, BUT THIS IS STRICTLY OUR PRIVATE SPECULATION.  
VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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